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Meeting Minutes

Commission for Blacks

12-2010

Meeting Minutes - December 2010

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Recommended Citation

Commission for Blacks, "Meeting Minutes - December 2010" (2010). *Meeting Minutes*.
https://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_blackmin/14

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Minutes for Commission for Blacks Meeting December 1, 2010

Call to Order: Dr. Camille Hall called the meeting to order at 12:00pm.

In Attendance: Benimon, Wanda Costen (Retail Hospitality and Tourism Management), Camille Hall (Chair), Annazette Houston (Office of Disability Services), Fritz Polite (Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Diversity), Valuri Reid (Athletics), Theotis Robinson (Equity and Diversity), Charles Rogers (Community Representative), Rosa Thomas (Student Health), Ex Officio Charles Houston (Black Faculty and Staff Association), Mary Papke (Commission for Women), Anton Reece (Student Success Center), Lynn Sacco (Commission for LGBT Persons), Mariah Benimon (Undergraduate Student Representative)

Additional Guests: Jesse Jones (Project Grad), Stan Bowie (Social Work),

Invited Guests: Chicara Mayes, Kevin Seymour

1. Review of October minutes: After review, the November minutes were approved with minimum grammar/syntax edits.

2. Report from the Chair: Dr. Camille Hall reported that there would not be a meeting in January. She explained that emails will be sent out to pass on any necessary information and reminded everyone that information would be posted on the website and Blackboard. Dr. Hall invited discussion about what requirements and responsibilities the commission would want in the proposed administrative diversity position. The discussion lead to what type of position should be in place, and if that position should begin as interim or as a full time position. Dr. Hall announced that the discussion would continue on Blackboard about what the requirements of the position should be.

Dr. Hall also announced that the newsletter would begin Spring 2011. This newsletter will be written by staff and faculty members and chronicle the achievements of UTK Black faculty, staff and students and Knoxville community. Dr. Stan Bowie and Mr. Jesse Jones (Project GRAD, community visitor) offered to assist Dr. Dawn Duke (Commissioner) with the development of the newsletter.

A Diverse Mentoring Program workshop diverse faculty, staff, and students will take place on September 29, 2011. Dr. Hall has invited chairperson from the other commissions and the diversity council and Dr. Sarah Gardial to develop best practices in mentoring.

Dr. Hall invited discussion of an email that was forwarded to all CFB members about racially insensitive music being played at the Ayres Hall reopening celebration that took place during Homecoming. The incidence was reported to the commission by an alumnus. The discussion was had about how to address this issue with the offended individual and how to address the issue across campus. Ideas were presented about a diversity forum, which would be lead by the Chancellor. Dr. Hall explained that further suggestions should be presented through Blackboard and explained that the commission will respond to Ms. A. Robinson.

3. Black Issues Conference: The Black Issues Conference is to take place on February 5, 2011 with the theme, "Black In America: Honoring the Past, Enhancing Our Future." All faculty, staff, and students who are interested need to register. If any faculty or staff has ideas or suggestions of events that could coincide with the conference, the committee is asking them to get in touch so that plans can be made. Dr. Hall announced that the CFB has agreed to help sponsor the event.

4. African American Achievement Celebration: A reminder that the kickoff for the 50th year (Jubilee) celebration will be occurring on January 11, 2011 at the Circle Park Torch.

5. Commission for LGBT Persons: Lynn Sacco asked the members of the CFB to be a support and aid in LGBT programming in order to reach and assist Black faculty, students, and staff that are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning. CFB members were asked about ideas and ways that they might be able to reach out to individuals who are without support. A video was shown about discrimination that occurs against LGBT persons. It was decided that this video will be posted on the CFB website.

6. Announcements: Students asked the CFB to help with ideas and assistance for Black History Month celebration programs. Ideas were presented during the meeting and leads were made about where the students should turn to for assistance.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm